

CARL SCHURZ'S POLITICAL CAREER

ment of the country stands behind your peace policy with confidence, gratitude and admiration. . . . You will gather imperishable honors by every effort to save even a last chance of honorable peace at this moment of the decisive crisis."

A week later Mr. Schurz wrote that "the war fever stirred tip by the 'yellow journals' is on the point of receding," and urged that whatever the outcome of the crisis, the utmost pains should be taken to remove every ground for suspicion that the annexation of Cuba was the secret motive of the government's action. On the 11th of April McKinley's message was sent to Congress recommending intervention for the single purpose of ending the disorders and suffering in Cuba. Though war with Spain was clearly contemplated, the President's tone was wholly pacific and humane, and offered no suggestion of imperialistic ambition. Schurz thanked him for his "excellent message," and added: "I have no doubt that the people will sustain you in your efforts for peace." This pleasant conventionality could not disguise the fact that the mass of the people, like the majority of Congress, at heart preferred war, and war duly came.

With the progress of hostilities Schurz's whole anxiety was to check the growth of that spirit of conquest which was so bountifully nourished by military and naval success. Though the annexation of Cuba had been formally excluded from the policy of our government, Porto Rico and the

Philippines soon presented the problem of expansion in a field concerning which no pledges had been made. The Hawaiian project also was revived in a more aggressive spirit than ever. Against every suggestion looking to the incorporation of any of these territories into our system Mr. Schurz was instant in opposition* His letters to the President received less and less attention as other influences assumed irresistible sway over Mr,

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